Posting of Armed Police in Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary

5441. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2 Platoons of the Orissa State Armed Police have been placed inside the Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary in Orissa during the year 2001;

(b) if so, whether such a deployment proved beneficial for forest protection; and

(c) whether the State Government intend to continue with the exercise in future?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As informed by the State Government, one platoon of Orissa State Armed Police Force was deployed in Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary from 28.10.2000 to 19.6.2001 for the protection of the Sanctuary. The deployment of the force helped in controlling illicit felling inside the sanctuary effectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Meetings of Wildlife Board

5442. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Indian Board for Wildlife was constituted; and

(b) the number of meetings held since its constitution; year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL) was constituted in the year 1952. Twenty-one meetings of IBWL have been convened so far. Year-wise details are as given below:

Sl. No.	Year of meeting of IBWL
1.	1952
2.	1955
3.	1958
4.	1961

Sl. No.	Year of meeting of IBWL
5.	1963
6.	1965
7.	1969
8.	1970
9.	1972
10.	1974
11.	1975
12.	1976
13.	1978
14.	1981
15.	1982
16.	1983
17.	1985
18.	1988
19.	1997
20.	1997
21.	2002

Man-made forests in Vizag Steel Plant

5443. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "Vizag Steel Plant a green's delight" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 19th April, 2002.

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government would allocate funds and encourage the growth of similar man-made forests which, besides creating pollution-free environment, would also provide natural habitat for the wildlife, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The afforestation work done by the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has been nationally recognized and the Plant was awarded the Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Award in 1991.